

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 109674

41

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01 AID-05

L-02 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 PA-01

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DRAFTED BY EA/LC:LMRIVES:RD

APPROVED BY EA - MR. HABIB

EA - MR. MILLER

EA/TB - MR. TATU

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 109674

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LA, TH

SUBJECT: VANG PAO'S FOLLOWERS FLEE TO THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 8505

1. IF AND WHEN THAI AUTHORITIES QUERY YOU REGARDING THE ARRIVAL IN THAILAND OF VANG PAO'S AIRPLANES AND SOME OF HIS FOLLOWERS, YOU SHOULD RESPOND THAT THE USG PRESUMES THAT THAI AND LAO CAN WORK THESE MATTERS OUT AMONG THEMSELVES.

2. FYI - WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO ASSIST LAO WHO HAVE BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE USG FOR MANY YEARS IN THE EVENT THAT THEY ARE FORCED TO FLEE THEIR COUNTRY. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT IS PREMATURE TO GET OVERLY INVOLVED IN THE QUESTION OF ASYLUM OR ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES FROM LAOS AT THIS TIME. TO MOVE TOO RAPIDLY WOULD
SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 109674

RISK ACCUSATION OF USG INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF LAOS.

3. WE ARE OF COURSE AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT FAR MORE

THAN 100 MEO MAY FOLLOW THEIR LEADER TO THAILAND IF HE GOES
THERE. THIS WILL PRESENT THE THAIS WITH A SERIOUS
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND PERHAPS MILITARY PROBLEM WHICH WOULD
HAVE BOTH ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES. THE FORMER

WOULD BE THE PRESENCE IN NORTHERN THAILAND OF AN INDEPEND-
ENT, FIERCELY ANTI-COMMUNIST GROUP. THE LATTER WOULD BE
THE UNDOUBTED WORSENING OF RELATIONS WITH LAOS AND
PERHAPS DRV. ANY COMMENTS FROM BANGKOK OR VIENTIANE
VIEWPOINT ON THIS POSSIBILITY WOULD BE WELCOME.

KISSINGER

SECRET

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To: BANGKOK INFO VIENTIANE
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